

A RESOLUTION.to express support of the
Tennessee General Assembly for
TennCare Block Grant reform.

WHEREAS, Tennessee's program of medical assistance to Medicaid eligible Tennesseans is an administrative project under a special waiver granted by the U.S. Health Care Financing Administration for five years and has operated for one year; and

WHEREAS, during operation of this special TennCare program, Tennessee has become a national leader in health care finance reform, continuing coverage for 800,000 former Medicaid recipients and adding coverage for 400,000 working poor; and

WHEREAS, the TennCare program improvements have provided that 92 per cent of Tennesseans have health care insurance; and

WHEREAS, these advances in the number of Tennesseans covered have been made concurrently with a dramatic slowdown in the growth of funding requirements which would have been associated with the former Medicaid program in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the federal funding component of the TennCare program is projected to increase at 8.3 per cent per year under the federal waiver, compared to traditional Medicaid growth rates ranging between 15 and 22 per cent per year; and

WHEREAS, Executive and Legislative officials in Tennessee are confident that even greater progress can be made in curtailing the growth in the cost of health care if sufficient flexibility were permitted by federal authorities; and

WHEREAS, TennCare program administrators are confident of the program's ability to operate more efficiently, at great cost savings to the federal and state governments, with Congressional authorization of a block grant for health care which supplants the Medicaid program in Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Congress of the United States is implored to enact laws which will enable the State of Tennessee to qualify for operation of a medical assistance program under Title XIX of the Social Security Act under a block grant of funds without regard to levels of state-funded expenditures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Ninety Ninth General Assembly does hereby express to the Congress of the United States and to the Congressional delegation representing the people of Tennessee that it strongly supports the action requested in the belief that the TennCare program will serve as a significant national model which other states will find useful for serving their own citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker and the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives; the President and the Secretary of

the U.S. Senate; and each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.

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